UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029.286	12/31/2001	Donna K. Hodges	BLS01311	7406

	EXAMINER
38515 7590 02/23/2007	LUDWIG, MATTHEW J
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/029,286	HODGES ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Matthew J. Ludwig	2178	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _20 November 2006_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-3 and 6-20_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-3 6-20_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This document is the first Office Action on the merits. This action is responsive to the

following communications: The Request for Reconsideration, which was filed on 11/20/2006.

2.   Claims 1-20 have been examined, with claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 15, and 20 being the independent

claims.

3.   Claims 1-11 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Sahota et al., have been withdrawn pursuant to applicant's arguments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   **Claims 1-3, 6-11, and 14-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Sahota, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication, 2001/0056460 A1,

published December 27, 2001, claiming priority to Provisional Application 60/199,686, filed

April 24, 2000) [hereinafter "Sahota"].

.Regarding **independent claim 1**, Sahota teaches:

> *A method for providing a business engine using platform independent business*
>
> *rules, comprising:*
>
> *providing a platform dependent business engine;*

> *encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT")*
>
> *to obtain an XSLT business rule component comprising the platform independent*
>
> *business rules, the XSLT business rule component operative to perform logical*
>
> *manipulations based on the platform independent rules; and*
>
> *coupling the XSLT business rule component with the platform dependent business*
>
> *engine to create the business engine using the platform independent business rules.*

(See, Sahota, figures 2A-2B, and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], and claims 41-50, teaching XSLT used within a "content converter" to map data into a variety of representations as a standard interface. See, particularly, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraphs [0066]-[0068].)

The reference discloses a single platform used to acquire content in one format and to transform the content in a format suitable for any number of destination devices. Furthermore, Syndication server uses content content engine to create synthesized content. Syndication server can target the synthesized content for various types of platforms. The reference fails to explicitly state the coupling XSLT business rule component with the platform dependent business engine to create the business engine using the platform independent business rules, however, the suggestion of a content engine with rules and included in the architecture of the system provides a suggestion of a coupling of components. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the well-known content transforming methods and the XSLT/content engine of Sahota, to modify the XSLT and content engine to provide a user with business-specific content because it would have provided business user with customized rich interactive services.

Regarding **dependent claim 2**, Sahota teaches:

> *The method of claim 1, further comprising:*
>
> *providing an updated XSLT business rule component comprising updated*
>
> *platform independent business rules; and*
>
> *loading the updated XSLT business rule component into the platform dependent*
>
> *business engine to obtain an updated business engine using the updated platform*
>
> *independent business rules.*

(See, Sahota, paragraph [0084], teaching the "syndication transformation manager" using XSLT

and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Regarding **dependent claim 3**, Sahota teaches:

> *The method of claim 1, further comprising:*
>
> *employing an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to*
>
> *facilitate coupling the XSLT business rule component with the platform dependent*
>
> *business engine.*

(See, Sahota, paragraphs [0059] and [0136], teaching the use of XML document type definitions

(DTS's) for coupling with the XSLT.)

Regarding **independent claim 6**, Sahota teaches:

> *A method for providing a common business service ("CBS") unit used in*
>
> *conjunction with an application program, the CBS unit using platform independent*
>
> *business rules, comprising:*

> *encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT")*
>
> *to obtain an XSLT business rule component comprising the platform independent*
>
> *business rules, the XSLT business rule component operative to perform logical*
>
> *manipulations based on the platform independent business rules;*
>
> > *providing a platform specific CBS unit; and*
>
> > *coupling the XSLT business rule component with the CBS unit to obtain the CBS*
>
> *unit using the platform independent business rules.*

(It is noted that a common business service (CBS) is disclosed as the XSLT business rule component claimed. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 23-28.

See, Sahota, paragraphs [0054]-[0055], teaching the repository 205 to store "rules and logic" which may be accessed on demand, and which is therefore a common business service and is taught to be used with an XSLT business rule component.) The reference discloses a single platform used to acquire content in one format and to transform the content in a format suitable for any number of destination devices. Furthermore, Syndication server uses content content engine to create synthesized content. Syndication server can target the synthesized content for various types of platforms. The reference fails to explicitly state the coupling XSLT business rule component with the CBS unit to obtain the CBS unit using the platform independent business rules, however, the suggestion of a content engine with rules and included in the architecture of the system provides a suggestion of a coupling of components. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the well-known content transforming methods and the XSLT/content engine of Sahota, to modify the XSLT and content engine to

provide a user with business-specific content because it would have provided business user with

customized rich interactive services.

Regarding **dependent claim 7**, Sahota teaches:

> *The method of claim 6, further comprising:*
>
> *providing an updated XSLT business rule component comprising updated*
>
> *platform independent business rules by updating the platform independent business rules*
>
> *using XSLT; and*
>
> *coupling the CBS unit with the updated XSLT business rule component to obtain*
>
> *an updated CBS unit using the updated platform independent business rules.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraph [0084], teaching the "syndication transformation

manager" using XSLT and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Regarding **dependent claim 8**, Sahota teaches:

> *The method of claim 6, wherein an extensible markup language ("XML")*
>
> *document type definition is used to couple the XSLT business rule component and the*
>
> *CBS unit.*

(See, Sahota, paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-

[0142], teaching the invention of claim 6 using and XML DTD.)

Regarding **independent claim 9**, Sahota teaches:

> *A method for manipulating input data and providing output data, comprising:*
>
> *encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT")*
> *to obtain a set of XSLT business rules;*
>
> *coupling the set of XSLT business rules with a platform dependent business*
> *engine to obtain an XSLT business engine; and*
>
> *using the XSLT business engine to:*
>
> > *receive the input data from a source;*
> >
> > *perform a logical manipulation of the input data based on the XSLT*
> > *business rules; and*
> >
> > *provide the output data to the source.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-

[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the XSLT business rules, coupling the XSLT business rules

to a platform dependent business engine to obtain an XSLT business engine and using the XSLT

business engine to receive input, perform manipulations of the input data based on the business

rules, and provide output data.) The reference discloses a single platform used to acquire content

in one format and to transform the content in a format suitable for any number of destination

devices. Furthermore, Syndication server uses content content engine to create synthesized

content. Syndication server can target the synthesized content for various types of platforms. The

reference fails to explicitly state XSLT business rules, however, the suggestion of a content

engine with rules and included in the architecture of the system provides a suggestion of a

coupling of components. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having

the well-known content transforming methods and the XSLT/content engine of Sahota, to

modify the XSLT and content engine to provide a user with business-specific content because it

would have provided business user with customized rich interactive services.

Regarding **dependent claim 10**, Sahota teaches:

>*The method of claim 9, further comprising:*

>*providing updated XSLT business rules by updating the set of XSLT business rules*

using XSLT; and

>*updating the XSLT business engine by coupling the updated XSLT business rules*

with the platform dependent business engine.

(See, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraph [0084], teaching the "syndication transformation

manager" using XSLT and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Regarding **dependent claim 11**, Sahota teaches:

>*The method of claim 9, wherein a call to a remote database is made as a result of*

the logical manipulation.

(See, Sahota, paragraph [0136]-[0142], teaching access to remote databases.)

Regarding **dependent claim 14**, Sahota teaches:

>*The method of claim 9, further comprising:*

> *using an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to*
>
> *facilitate coupling of the set of XSLT business rules with the platform dependent business*
>
> *engine.*

(See, Sahota, paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the invention of claim 9 using and XML DTD.)

Regarding **independent claim 15**, Sahota teaches:

> *A method for performing a task requested by an application program comprising:*
>
> *encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT")*
>
> *to obtain platform independent business rules;*
>
> *coupling the platform independent business rules with a platform dependent*
>
> *common business service ("CBS") unit to obtain an XSLT CBS unit; and*
>
> *using the XSLT CBS unit to:*
>
>> *receive input data from the application program;*
>>
>> *perform a logical manipulation of the input data based on the platform*
>>
>> *independent business rules; and*
>>
>> *provide output data based on the logical manipulation.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the XSLT business rules, coupling the XSLT business rules to a platform dependent business engine to obtain an XSLT business engine and using the XSLT business engine to receive input, perform manipulations of the input data based on the business rules, and provide output data.) The reference discloses a single platform used to acquire content

in one format and to transform the content in a format suitable for any number of destination devices. Furthermore, Syndication server uses content content engine to create synthesized content. Syndication server can target the synthesized content for various types of platforms. The reference fails to explicitly state XSLT business rules, however, the suggestion of a content engine with rules and included in the architecture of the system provides a suggestion of a coupling of components. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the well-known content transforming methods and the XSLT/content engine of Sahota, to modify the XSLT and content engine to provide a user with business-specific content because it would have provided business user with customized rich interactive services.

Regarding **dependent claim 16**, Sahota teaches:

The method of claim 15, further comprising:

providing updated platform independent business rules by updating the platform independent business rules using XSLT; and

coupling the CBS unit with the updated platform independent business rules to obtain an updated CBS unit.

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching updating the XSLT business rules by updating the XSLT, coupling the XSLT business rules the CBS on the independent client.)

Regarding **dependent claim 17**, Sahota teaches:

The method of claim 15, further comprising:

> *using an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to*
>
> *facilitate coupling the platform independent business rules with the platform dependent*
>
> *CBS unit.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching using XML for coupling.)

Regarding **dependent claim 18**, Sahota teaches:

> *The method of claim 15, wherein the output response is provided to the*
>
> *application program.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142].)

Regarding **dependent claim 19**, Sahota teaches:

> *The method of claim 15, wherein the output response is a call to another software*
>
> *unit.*

(See, Sahota, paragraph [0136]-[0142], teaching access to remote databases which would be a "software unit.")

Regarding **independent claim 20**, Sahota teaches:

> *A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions*
>
> *comprising:*

a set of business rules encoded in extensible style language translator ("XSLT"),

wherein the encoded set of business rules can be adaptively coupled with a platform

dependent business engine using a document type definition to provide a platform

dependent business engine having behavior based on the set of business rules encoded in

XSLT.

(Claim 20 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected

along the same rationale.)

4.   It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art

references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any

way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have

reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See, MPEP 2123.

Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

7.   **Claims 12 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sahota,

et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication, 2001/0056460 A1, published December 27, 2001,

claiming priority to Provisional Application 60/199,686, filed April 24, 2000) [hereinafter

"Sahota"], as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Lipkin, et al. (U.S. Patent

Application Publication, 2002/0049788 A1, filed January 12, 2001, and claiming priority to

Provisional Application 60/176,450, filed January 14, 2000) [hereinafter "Lipkin"].

Regarding **dependent claim 12**, Sahota in view of Lipkin teaches:

> *The method of claim 9, wherein a call to another business engine is made as a*
>
> *result of the logical manipulation.*

(Sahota teaches the invention claimed in claim 9, and teaches a call to another business engine.

See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-

[0084], and [0136]-[0142]. Sahota does not expressly teach that the call is made as a result of

logical manipulation.

Lipkin teaches a separate "meta-data store" to hold information used to validate input

data. See, Lipkin, paragraphs [0232]-[0243]. Lipkin teaches to store the data separately from

the execution data of the program, and Sahota teaches to call for update information. Sahota and

Lipkin are combinable in that they are in the same art of integrating disparate platforms and

software applications.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to combine the calling access function of Sahota with the separate storage access function of

Lipkin.

The suggestion or motivation to combine the references is for the obvious advantage of

accessing separately stored data, the difference between the authorities being merely limited to

whether the data was stored on the same processor, Lipkin, or on a separate processor, Sahota.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teachings of Sahota and Lipkin to result in the invention specified in

claim 12.)

Regarding **dependent claim 13**, Sahota in view of Lipkin teaches:

> *The method of claim 9, wherein when the logical manipulation comprises a*
>
> *validation of the input data.*

(Sahota teaches the invention claimed in claim 9, and teaches a call to another business engine.

See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-

[0084], and [0136]-[0142]. Sahota does not expressly teach that the call is made as a result of

logical manipulation.

Lipkin teaches a separate "meta-data store" to hold information used to validate input

data. See, Lipkin, paragraphs [0232]-[0243]. Lipkin teaches to store the data separately from

the execution data of the program, and Sahota teaches to call for update information. Sahota and

Lipkin are combinable in that they are in the same art of integrating disparate platforms and

software applications.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

to combine the calling access function of Sahota with the separate storage access function of

Lipkin.

The suggestion or motivation to combine the references is for the obvious advantage of

accessing separately stored data, the difference between the authorities being merely limited to

whether the data was stored on the same processor, Lipkin, or on a separate processor, Sahota.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teachings of Sahota and Lipkin to result in the invention specified in

claim 12.)

5.   It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art

references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any

way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have

reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See, MPEP 2123.

Response to Arguments

8.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3and 6-20 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9.   The following prior art is made of record and not relied upon that is considered pertinent

to applicants' disclosure:

Abrari et al.,   Pub. No. US 2002/0120917 A1   filed (11/26/01)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

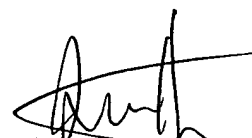examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Ludwig whose telephone number is 571-272-4127.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ML

STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER